

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166567

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL REPEAT JIDDA 4992 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 18 JUL.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4992

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD, US, SA

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF STATE 166492

1. DURING JULY 16 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD, AMBASSADOR AND DCM RAISED SUBJECT OF MILITARY SITUATION IN CHAD. SAUD REPLIED THAT SAG ALSO HAD INFORMATION THAT SITUATION HAD BECOME SERIOUS. HE CONFIRMED THAT SAG IS QUITE CONCERNED OVER LIBYAY ACTION IN SUPPORTING THE REBELS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 166567

2. DCM ASKED IF FACT THAT LIBYA IS ALSO AN ARAB COUNTRY WOULD MODIFY SAG VIEWS. SAUD REPLIED THAT TO EXTENT THAT QUADAFI WAS SUPPORTING THE REBELS AGAINST LEGITIMATE CHADIAN GOVERNMENT HE COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AN ARAB.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT SAG WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE CHAD GOVERNMENT BUT DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT. IF THE

LEAD IN ORGANIZING AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WERE TAKEN BY THE GOVT. OF FRANCE OR OF THE UNITED STATES, SAG WOULD BE PLEASED AND WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE.

4. OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT THE USG HAS DELIVERED FOLLOWING ITEMS OF U.S. ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SAG WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSFER TO CHAD:

A. 81 LIGHT AND MEDIUM TANKS. WE HAVE LOCATED 51 OF THESE THAT ARE DISPOSED AS FOLLOWS: 34 M-41 TANKS IN KHAMIS MUSHAYT IN SEMI-ACTIVE CONDITION AND 17 M-47 TANKS IN STORAGE AT TABUK.

B. IN ADDITION USG HAS RECENTLY DELIVERED SIX M60A1 TANKS NOW AT TABUK AND EIGHT M113A1 APC'S AT TABUK OR TAIF.

C. SAG HAS TWO SQUADRONS OF C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT. THE TWO SQUADRONS HAVE 24 C-130H TRANSPORTS AND FOUR KC-130H TANKERS FOR AERIAL REFUELING.

D. THE SAUDI AIR FORCE HAS A TOTAL OF 43 AUGUSTA-BELL HELICOPTERS MANUFACTURED IN ITALY UNDER LICENSE BY BELL HELICOPTER OF DALLAS. THEY ALSO HAVE TWO VIP CONFIGURED SIKORSKY HELICOPTERS. THE AUGUSTA-BELLS INCLUDE ONE AB 204, EIGHT AB 205'S, 24 AB 206'S, AND TEN AB 212'S.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 166567

5. IN ADDITION TO U.S. ORIGIN EQUIPMENT, THE SAG HAS RECEIVED IN EXCESS OF 250 FRENCH AMX ARMORED VEHICLES INCLUDING TANKS AND APC'S. WE BELIEVE THAT THE JIDDA ORDNANCE DEPOT NOW HAS IN STORAGE 42 AMX-30 MBT'S, 20 AMX-30 TANK RETRIEVERS, AND 50 AMX-10 APC'S AWAITING DISTRIBUTION. IF THE GOF TAKES THE LEAD IN ORGANIZING MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR CHAD, THE AMX VEHICLES MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN U.S. ORIGIN EQUIPMENT.
WEST

UNQUOTE VANCE

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